

TRANSLUCENCE OPENS AT THE BLOCK GALLERY

Translucence, sponsored by the Raleigh Arts Commission, will be on display August 6 through September 21, 2009 in the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. *Translucence* features paintings by Melissa Katherine and photographs by Ron Ward. This is the fourth exhibition of the 2009 25th Anniversary Municipal Building Exhibition Series.

An opening-day reception for *Translucence*, featuring a video screening of *Yuxtapongo*, will be held on Thursday, August 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Block Gallery. *Yuxtapongo*, produced by Neill Prewitt, is collaborative video collage that features local artists and musicians. Its name, *Yuxtapongo*, is Spanish for "I juxtapose." It can be seen on RTN (in Raleigh) and on the People's Channel in Chapel Hill.

Translucence presents work that transforms light and figures into movement, color, and texture. From Ron Ward's unaltered photographs of light to Melissa Katherine's paintings of veiled figures, both bodies of artwork strive to capture a moment. Mr. Ward is motivated by the quest to visually recreate something that is dreamed. The products of this query are film-captured photographs of light, manipulated and blended by the artist. Ms. Katherine recreates, in paint, a memory, either using the "intensity" of a recalled gesture or the "subtlety of a whispered secret." The resulting exhibition is rich in color, and ripe with both abstractions (Mr. Ward) and moments of clarity (Ms. Katherine).

Mr. Ward is a self-taught photographer as well as an Air Force veteran, and has attended and taught workshops in alternative photographic processes. He has exhibited throughout the Southeast, notably at Flander's 311, Points of View, Light Factory (Charlotte, N.C.), and Water Tree Arts (Atlanta, G.A.). Mr. Ward's photographs have been featured in the *Independent Weekly* and in various travel publications. Mr. Ward currently lives and works in Raleigh.

Ms. Katherine holds a bachelor of fine arts in painting from East Carolina University, and has exhibited throughout the state including at the Halle Cultural Arts Center (Apex, N.C.), Louise Gilbert Gallery (Statesville, N.C.), and at Duke University. Her paintings are part of the permanent collections at Lenoir Rhyne College and the Rock School Arts Foundation. Ms. Katherine currently lives and works in Raleigh.

Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach, the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery is located on the first and second floors of the Upchurch Government Complex. The gallery is managed by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, and was dedicated in 2006 to honor Miriam Preston Block, a former Raleigh City Council member and community leader. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. except on holidays.

Established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, the City Raleigh Arts Commission proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

For more information, contact the Arts Commission office at 996-3610 or email Sarah Blackmon, gallery coordinator, at sarah.blackmon@ci.raleigh.nc.us.